As provided in the Central Road Fund Act, allocations are made Statewise. The allocation criteria gives weightage to need (measure of lack of connectivity) as well as Coverage (measure of length of existing network). The share of Madhya Pradesh has been fixed at Rs. 315 crores accordingly. However, States with high levels of lack of connectivity are also being assisted through funds obtained from World Bank/Asian Development Bank (ADB). ADB has approved a $ 400 million (Rs. 2000 crores) project for Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Jobs to educated unemployed youth

1399. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the achievements made so far for providing job opportunities to the educated unemployed youths in the backward districts of the country; and

(b) the details of the number of the educated unemployed youths in these backward districts of the country have been benefited by getting employment during 2003-04 and 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Rural Development implements, through the State Governments a Self Employment Scheme and a Wage Employment Scheme namely, the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY). The eligible educated unemployed youths in backward districts can avail of the assistance under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY). During 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Oct. 2004), 8.96 lakh and 3.9 lakh total Swarojgaris have been assisted including educated unemployed rural youth in the country respectively under Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY).

Improving traditional skills of village artisans

1400.SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of improving the traditional skills of